Youths cheated with false promises of jobs in Gulf Countries

3477. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that many youths seeking jobs abroad are cheated by persons, offering false promises of jobs in foreign countries especially in Gulf countries and extracting money from them;

(b) if so, how many such cases are reported from Kerala during the last five years;

(c)' the steps taken to rescue the poor victims from the tentacles of these new mafiyas; and

(d) will Government stop such private transactions and develop a new department to find out the job opportunities and helping the aspirants to get it surely on a reasonable fee?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (c) Such complaints are received from time to time. Depending on the nature of the complaints, these are inquired into, if necessary, with the help of Police and the concerned Indian mission abroad. Appropriate action against guilty persons is taken under the Emigration Act, 1983.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Survey in the border areas of Punjab to set up small scale cotton industry

3478. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of INDUS TRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the border areas of the Punjab State for Setting up of small scale cotton industries in the interest of the unemployed youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, *the* reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) The primary responsibility for development of Small Scale Industry rests with the State Governments. The Central Government also supplements these efforts through various schemes.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Govt, to create and generate employment.

(i) To provide self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in the country. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana has been launched in the year 1993-94. The scheme is designed to provide employment to more than a million persons by setting up of 7 lakh micro enter-prises by the end of 8th Five Year Plan.

(ii) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme has been launched in March, 1994 to augment infrastructural facilities' in rural and backward areas with special emphasis on linkages between agriculture and industry. The scheme envisages setting up of SO Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres in the country during 8th Five Year Plan 'One such project has also been sanctioned for State of Punjab at Village Dhanchala of Jhans Block Tanda Block Hoshiarpur on 23.11.94 at an estimated-cost of Rs. 305 lakh, out of which Rs. 122 lakhs is the grant from Government of India and Rs. 183 lakhs is the loan from SIDBI. Work on the project is in progress and it is likely to be completed by next year.